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**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION**

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February 8, 2023

To: The Honorable Melony Griffith  
Chair, Finance Committee

From: Steven M. Sakamoto-Wengel  
Consumer Protection Division

Re: Senate Bill 177 – Rental Vehicles – Spare Tires and Tire Repair Tools  
(SUPPORT)

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General supports Senate Bill 177, sponsored by Senator Kagan, which would require a rental car company to include a spare tire and the tools needed to change a tire or, in the alternative, disclose in the rental agreement whether the vehicle being rented includes a spare tire. If the rental car company decides not to include the spare tire and repair tools, the bill would require the consumer renting the vehicle to separately initial the disclosure. The Division believes that whether a rental vehicle includes a spare tire is material information that would be important to a consumer renting a vehicle and, consequently, supports SB 177's requirement that a spare tire be provided or that the consumer be made aware that the vehicle doesn't include a spare tire.

Senate Bill 177 limits the requirement that a rental car agency include a spare tire to those vehicles that would have originally been so equipped, so the bill should not impose an undue burden on the rental car company. However, where a rental vehicle is not so equipped, disclosure of such material information is an important principle of consumer protection, ensuring that consumers have the information they need to make an informed decision about a purchase. *See, e.g.* Commercial Law §13-301(3) (requiring disclosure of material information if the failure to disclose that information deceives or tends to deceive consumers). A consumer renting a vehicle needs to know that, if they have a flat tire or other tire problem while driving the rental vehicle, whether they have a spare tire to fix the problem, will need to wait for the rental car company to send assistance, or find a repair facility willing to replace or repair the tire. Disclosing this information places a minimal burden on the rental car company while failure to make the disclosure could place a significant burden on the consumer renting the vehicle.

Accordingly, the Consumer Protection Division respectfully requests that the Senate Finance Committee return a favorable report on Senate Bill 177.

cc: The Honorable Cheryl Kagan  
Members, Finance Committee